N.B. Have not read the letter through & it's written in great haste for post - so ~~[illegible]~~ forgive any absurdities etc of idea or spelling or what not. D.
Just off to the bloody dentist.

Northwick Lodge
Harrow on the Hill
The Eve of St David 1960

Dearest Rene

I was so pleased to get your letter, I am sorry I didn't recognize your voice even if it was low-toned I ~~[illegible]~~ ought to have recognized it. But in these discussions when three or four chaps barge in on each other, it's always hard to know who's talking, except that, in this case, I was waiting for your voice, & should have ~~[illegible]~~ recognized it, I'm sorry. I laughed like anything at your ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ disgust in your letter about the bloody Byzantines. It's the martial Irish strain coming out! Of course there is a whole tendency to deride the West going about, these times. But still, we all have been terribly ignorant of the Byzantine thing, I think, don't you?

About cariad - no, the accent is on the first syllable - cár-i-ad - it's virtually a two-syllable word - one of the most moving in the Welsh language. related to caritas of course, but not apparently derived from it - but of a common Aryan stem. When a proper Welsh girl says it ~~[illegible]~~ in proper educated Welsh, it's terrific. The 'a' is not like the 'a' in in 'car' quite, nor in 'carry', but nearer that - much nearer - it's an emphatic sound, ②

an exceeding pure vowel, & the 'r' slightly trilled & with that ~~somewhat~~ slightly aspirated sound that you get in Welsh a lot* & in Irish too. Rhiannon is pronounced Rhi (very aspirated) – án – non & adargerdd is ~~[illegible]~~ pronounced as if it were two words ádar + gérdd. If it had become totally one word it would follow the Welsh rule of the accent falling on the penult syllable & would be adárgerdd — but, so far, in the development of the language, it is pronounced as two words — in fact if one ~~[illegible]~~ were writing it in the ordinary way one would hyphenate it: adar-gerdd. But I refrain from ~~hyphens~~ hyphens in these bleeding inscriptions. Penglog is pronounced pén-glog & gwanwyn gwán-wyn following the ordinary rule of the penultimate stress syllable. I see, from the O.E.D., that haubergeon is to be pronounced háw-ber-gin — & not in the French manner at all.

Very exciting about Cloelia — ~~[illegible]~~ thanks very much for telling me about that. Curiously enough that's just what I'd always supposed. — The foam of the Tiber & the foam of the thalassa I had thought of as connected. I'm hoping that some day (if there is a some day) I'll try & do a picture of Cloelia breasting the swollen river (on a Welsh pony!) — she's always excited me from when I ~~just~~ ~~[illegible]~~ heard about it in perhaps, Macaulay, or some such — or perhaps, it was you yourself who first told me

* They seem to throw the sound into the air without the effort in an ~~[illegible]~~ inimitable manner — it gives a sort of ~~proud~~ proud yet gentle sound that English-speaking people can't get at all — at least, I can't. It's as though you tossed your head when you said it, or blew on a silver trumpet.

My Welsh friend that I told you about got married in January. I knew that that had to be & ought to be but I do miss ~~seeing~~ seeing her terribly — somehow it all got entwined in all ~~[illegible]~~ my work — & all this Welsh thing — well, know what I mean. As all that was again partly because of this voice thing. — Our old tag — "words have power to bind & loose material things" — Jesus! how true that is. All this stuff is, of course, only between you & me.

about her – I can't recall, now. But I *think* it was in a little school history of Rome written in God knows when – about 1860 – that I read years & years ago.

I'd like very much to have a script of the talk for the children of Canada – but I know how difficult that is.

Bernard tells me he was hoping you would do a thing about my stuff in his magazine. – well, naturally that would be heavenly. – after all, you wrote one of the most accurate account of ~~my~~ Jones's stuff in *The Studio* a few years back. But I should hate to think of you being troubled by it – everything (I find) is such a bloody effort, ~~and~~ & for virtually no pennies, that one is appalled. Whatever I do, I can scarcely make ends meet. & I work till about 2 A.M. always.

Feel pretty low actually, but have been very well, on the whole, of late. Better than I used to be anyway. Very worried now because it looks as if I have got to move from here during the summer – it's an appalling thought. I'm trying to do Tristan ac Essyllt in the ship coming from your native land. & the sod won't come right – & I take *weeks* now to do what I once would do in as many *hours* – everything gets more difficult

& complex — there become more & more & more things to think about & I'm beginning to feel too old to deal with the bloody problems involved.

As it is the eve of St David I think it would amuse you to have a few ~~three~~ lines of the medieval Sequence in the Mass of David:

HIC EST PVGIL BRITANNORVM
DVX ET DOCTOR WALICORVM
DEI FAVENS CIVIBVS
NATO NOMEN VVLGVS DONAT
DEWY DEVOROVRE* QVOD ET
SONAT DAVID VIR AQVATICVS

Don't attempt to answer this — just wanted to thank you. Of course, if ever you could come over that would be grand. Love to dear Joan. Do hope ~~[illegible]~~ the Dictionary you are in part compiling is going all well. Look after yourself

much love, as always,

Dai

P.S. Did I tell you that a French girl for the Sorbonne is doing for her (what we should call) M.A. thesis, an analytical study of The Anathemata. That's nice isn't it. And she hasn't half got the hang of it too. How you do it in an acquired language I can't imagine. I think the Frogs must have very superior minds when it comes to concepts & the understanding of how ~~[illegible]~~ 'art-works' ~~[illegible]~~ are contrived. Very objective — ~~doesn't~~ understands about form & content & sees the jokes too & the allusions — what a bloody relief — no nonsense about obscurity & 'unshared background'. Of course, I don't know yet what the actual written conclusion will be like — I know only the kind of questions. D.J.

* an attempt to render in Latin Dewi Dyfrwr (pronounced [illegible]) Dú-wee dúv-roor, ~~if~~ if already